



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CERAPE: Empowering Research and Policy Impact in Central Africa



The Center for Studies and Research on Economic Analyses and Policies (CERAPE), based in the Republic of Congo, is a long-standing ACBF partner and a key player in public policy research and capacity development in the Central African region.

The Center contributes to evidence-based policy debates, collaborates with government and academic stakeholders, and drives forward-thinking research in economic transformation.

Under the SALCA (Strengthening African Leadership, Capacities, and Accountability) program, ACBF provided institutional support that helped CERAPE improve internal operations and governance.

Key achievements include the development of operational manuals for human resources and finance, the adoption of a new 2025–2029 strategic plan, and the revitalization of its Board of Directors. The Foundation also equipped CERAPE with modern office infrastructure and ICT tools, leading to improved efficiency and staff engagement. Additionally, a communication and knowledge management strategy was developed to enhance information sharing and organizational learning.

These investments have strengthened CERAPE’s visibility and reach. The center has relaunched field activities, including a maize production support project for smallholder farmers in Kayes, southern Congo, which brought together over 70 participants and local authorities in September 2025. CERAPE also produces

digital content to extend its policy influence, with growing traction across social media platforms. “Thanks to ACBF, our governance has improved, our visibility has increased, and our staff are better equipped to lead,” said Dr. Jean-Christophe Bounou Bazika, Director General of CERAPE. “The impact is already visible, we’ve launched a new maize producers’ initiative in southern Congo, and our research is gaining traction both locally and globally.”

Beyond implementation, CERAPE has deepened its policy engagement. It recently held consultations with Congo’s Ministry of Forestry and UNICONGO, the leading business federation in the country, exploring opportunities for applied research and joint action.

Internationally, CERAPE has been invited to present at think tank forums in Abu Dhabi, China, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, affirming its growing reputation in global policy dialogue.

For more, visit: [Center for Studies and Research on Economic Analysis and Policies](#)

ACBF in Action

Africa Think Tank Spotlight Webinar Series Launches



On July 4, 2025, ACBF hosted the first Africa Think Tank Spotlight Webinar Series – “Know Your Think Tanks in Africa” (KYTTA) to elevate the visibility, impact, and policy relevance of African think tanks.

Held virtually, the session provided a platform for think tank leaders to share research insights, showcase best practices, and demonstrate how local expertise is influencing policy development across the continent.

The discussions reinforced the link between evidence-based research and effective policy implementation.

The first webinar featured:

- **Ali Abdi Issa, Managing Director of the Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI), Ethiopia**
- **Gibson Chigumira, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Institute (ZEPARI), Zimbabwe**
- **Alban Alphonse AHOURE, Director of the Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du Cires (CAPEC), Côte d'Ivoire**
- **Jean-Christophe Bounou Bazika, Director General of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Analyses et Politiques Economiques (CERAPE), Congo**
- **Fatima ARIB, Founder and President of the International Institute for Sustainable Transition in Africa, Morocco**

The KYTTA series is part of ACBF’s broader strategy to strengthen Africa’s knowledge ecosystem and promote cross-sector engagement in support of the continent’s socio-economic transformation.

The initiative builds upon the Foundation’s existing efforts to strengthen the ecosystem of credible think tanks across Africa, further enhancing the impact of over 50 think tanks established with the support of ACBF.

AU-GRAP National Workshops Strengthen Climate Finance Readiness



Between 1 July and 8 August 2025, ACBF led a series of national training workshops under the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan (AU-GRAP), reaching five countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Held in collaboration with the African Union Commission's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), the workshops aimed to strengthen institutional readiness to access and manage climate finance, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The sessions targeted government ministries, agencies, civil society, and national climate finance focal points.

Participants received practical guidance on designing bankable proposals, strengthening interagency coordination, and aligning climate finance strategies with national development priorities.

These workshops support a key AU-GRAP objective: equipping member states to secure more ambitious and sustainable financing for green recovery, climate resilience, and low-carbon development.

The initiative aligns with Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063, which calls for inclusive growth, sound environmental stewardship, and sustainable resource management. It also supports Aspiration 7 by strengthening Africa's global positioning on climate resilience and sustainable development.

Click here to read the full story: [Transformative Climate Finance Program Boosts Knowledge and Action Across Five African Countries](#)

Design Thinking Workshop Strengthens Institutional Roadmaps



From 16 to 18 July 2025, ACBF hosted a Design Thinking Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, bringing together think tanks partners to validate organizational assessment reports and co-develop strategic roadmaps.

Held under the Capacity Development for Africa's Structural Transformation (CADAST) initiative, the three-day event brought together thirteen African think tanks in an interactive format to align priorities, deepen mutual accountability, and foster peer learning.

Participants engaged in collaborative sessions aimed at refining institutional strategies, addressing capacity gaps, and co-creating sustainable solutions for policy research and trade facilitation across the continent. Using a design thinking approach, they worked to identify institutional gaps, co-create practical solutions,

and explore new models of collaboration.

With its emphasis on peer learning and strategic alignment, the CADAST initiative continues to equip African think tanks with the tools to produce high-impact research and shape policy reforms that matter for Africa's integration and transformation.

Click here to read full story: [African Think Tanks Build Capacity to advance AfCFTA and Structural Transformation](#)

Africa Think Tank Platform Project Launches \$50M Call for Proposals

Launch of the AFRICA THINK TANK PLATFORM (ATTP) CALL FOR PROPOSALS VIRTUAL MEETING

24 JULY 2025
14H-15H30 EAT/GMT +3

SPEAKERS/PANELISTS

 H.E. SELMA MALIKA HADDADI Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission	 FATEN AKGAD Deputy Chief of Staff, Director of the Deputy Chairperson's Office, AUC	 STEVE PATRICK LALANDE Director, Institutional Management and Resource Mobilization, AUC	 THEMBA CHIRWA ATTP Project Coordinator, African Union Commission	 PAMLA GOPAL Senior Program Officer, AUDA-NEPAD
 ABDRAHAMANE DICKO Director, Program and Impact, ACBF	 SAMER AL-SAMARRAT Lead Specialist, World Bank External Digital Practice	 BARASSOU DIAWARA Senior Strategic Management Support, ACBF	 FATOU DIOUF Senior Specialist and Managing Director, ACBF	

MODERATORS

On 24 July 2025, ACBF, the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) jointly launched the Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP) Call for Proposals, a bold step to strengthen evidence-based policymaking across the continent. The ATTP Project is a landmark five-year, \$50 million initiative funded by the World Bank.

The call invited consortia of 3–5 African think tanks to submit proposals aligned with four of six key themes: economic transformation, climate change, regional trade, food security, digitalization, and human capital.

The initiative aims to foster collaborative research, improve policy uptake, and enhance institutional sustainability across the think tank ecosystem.

During the launch, Ambassador **Selma Malika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC**, called on African governments to embed think tanks into policy processes as strategic partners for Agenda 2063.

ATTP Project also prioritizes women's leadership in policy research, capacity development for junior researchers, and the creation of an endowment fund to ensure long-term resilience.

With submissions closed on 24 September 2025, the screening of proposals will take place throughout October, followed by evaluation and selection by an Independent Committee of Experts during the same month, with award notifications expected in November and grant disbursement scheduled for December.

For more information, visit AfricaThinkTankPlatform.Africa

Tax Dialogues Deepen Continental Discourse on Illicit Finance and Debt Sustainability

As part of its ongoing fiscal capacity agenda, ACBF, together with HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management, hosted high-impact sessions of the Tax Dialogues Webinar Series in



Q3 2025. These convenings focused on two critical issues shaping Africa’s development trajectory: illicit financial flows (IFFs) and the interplay between taxation and debt.

Held on 25 June, Webinar 2 examined the theme “Combatting Illicit Financial Flows: Strengthening Africa’s Fiscal Sovereignty.”

Experts from the African Union Commission, Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA), West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), and ACBF discussed how IFFs, which cost the continent between US\$50 and US\$80 billion annually, undermine public trust, shrink domestic revenues, and deepen reliance on external finance. The session emphasized the need for better enforcement mechanisms, regional cooperation, and more equitable global tax rules.

Webinar 3, held on 11 September under the theme “Navigating the Interplay of Taxation and Debt in Africa,” spotlighted the fiscal dilemma confronting many African nations. Stakeholders from Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), and Rwanda Finance Limited explored how regressive tax structures and unsustainable borrowing patterns exacerbate poverty and constrain investment.

Proposals included more balanced debt management, entrepreneurship-friendly tax regimes, and collaborative knowledge-sharing for long-term resilience.

Both sessions reinforced the urgency of building transparent, fair, and sovereign tax systems that can support Agenda 2063 and deliver on Africa’s development aspirations. Strategic policy briefs from each session are forthcoming.

Strengthening Tobacco Control Capacity and Policy Alignment in Africa



ACBF intensified its continental support for tobacco control through two high-impact engagements aimed at bolstering national and regional implementation of the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

From 29 to 30 July, ACBF co-organised the Continental Dialogue on Strengthening Tobacco Control in Africa at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, alongside the African Union Commission and Africa CDC. This high-level, hybrid event brought together Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and key partners to accelerate the enforcement of FCTC measures.

The discussions identified critical gaps in enforcement, fiscal policy, and multisectoral coordination and called for stronger political commitment and investment in effective tobacco control. The event aligns with Agenda 2063 and the Africa Health Strategy 2016–2030 and builds on ACBF’s decade-long support to 13 countries and 4 regional institutions in this area.

Complementing this effort, ACBF partnered with the Africa Centre for Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Policy Research (ATIM), Tanzania’s Ministry of Health, and the WHO Country Office to deliver a strategic training workshop on Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC which addresses the need to protect public health policies from the influence of the tobacco industry.

Held from 16 to 18 September in Dar es Salaam, the training convened 30 participants from across sectors to build capacity in countering tobacco industry interference (TII). Attendees engaged in practical sessions on legal accountability, media monitoring, and industry tracking through the ATIM App.

Together, these efforts demonstrate ACBF's commitment to strengthening governance, enhancing public health safeguards, and fostering multisectoral action in support of Africa's development goals.

Strengthening Public Finance Resilience During Crisis Times



From 4 to 8 August 2025, ACBF hosted a high-level regional workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on Public Financial Management (PFM) in Crisis Times. It was held under the Foundation's Capacity Development for Africa's Structural Transformation (CADAST) initiative with support from the African Development Bank Group.

The five-day workshop convened senior officials from the ministries of finance and economic planning of ten African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

The training aimed to strengthen institutional capacity for adaptive budgeting, crisis-responsive planning, and resilient fiscal governance. Through interactive sessions, participants explored crisis typologies, developed strategic frameworks for managing uncertainty, and shared country experiences and reform strategies.

ACBF Executive Secretary Mamadou Biteye opened the workshop by calling for proactive leadership and resilience in PFM systems. Experts from the World Bank, including Mr. Ousmane Kolie and Dr. Kodzovi Abalo, offered insights on managing fiscal risks and climate-sensitive reforms.

Participants concluded the week by formulating country-specific action plans to guide PFM reforms and institutional strengthening in the face of future shocks.

Thought Leadership and Collaboration



Building a New Generation of Food Systems Leaders

In September 2025, ACBF took part in the Africa Food Systems Forum, where Abdrahamane Dicko, ACBF's Director of Programs and Impact, contributed to two major sessions.

At the Youth Agrifood Leadership Dialogue, Dicko shared his professional and leadership journey as a case study to inspire young agripreneurs. He also highlighted ACBF's investments in equipping youth with the skills and confidence to lead food system transformation.

In a high-level side event co-convened by ACBF alongside AGRA, the Africa Food Fellowship, African Leadership University, and AWARD, the Foundation joined a coalition seeking to train 25,000 food systems leaders across the continent in support of the Kampala Declaration on CAADP implementation.

Later, Dicko also spoke during a session on Policy and State Capacity for Agri-food Systems Leadership and

Governance, where he emphasized that strengthening human and institutional capacity in this sector is a catalytic investment for sustainable transformation.



Advancing Tobacco Control Through Global Solidarity

From 23 to 25 June 2025, ACBF took part in the World Conference on Tobacco Control (WCTC) in Dublin, Ireland, a premier global forum convening public health experts, policymakers, and advocates to address the evolving tobacco and nicotine epidemic.

Through multiple sessions, the conference examined new threats posed by emerging products, industry interference, and inequities in global policy implementation.

Delegates, including ACBF representatives, endorsed the Dublin Declaration, which calls for stronger global action against tobacco harms, increased excise taxes, industry accountability, and integration of tobacco control into health and environmental agendas.

ACBF's participation reinforced its commitment to advancing capacity building for African public health institutions and supporting implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) across the continent.



TICAD9 Side Event on Innovation-Driven Industrialization

On 21 August 2025 in Yokohama, Japan, ACBF Executive Secretary Mamadou Biteye joined African ministers, Japanese officials, and global development partners at a high-level side event during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9).

The session was co-organized by UNIDO, the African Union Commission, and AUDA-NEPAD under the theme “Leveraging Innovation for Africa’s Industrial Transformation: Building Resilience in a Globalized Economy.”

The event spotlighted scalable innovation models in sectors such as clean energy, green manufacturing, AI, and digital agriculture. Discussions emphasized Africa’s potential to lead industrial transformation through inclusive innovation ecosystems, strengthened by frameworks like the AfCFTA and Agenda 2063.

Mr. Biteye underlined ACBF’s commitment to capacity development which enables African institutions and entrepreneurs to harness innovation for sustainable growth and economic competitiveness. He joined a distinguished panel including ministers from Ghana, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Angola, and the DRC, as well as representatives from Smart Africa, Toppan Digital Japan, and the Trade and Development Bank.

The session closed with a call for stronger Africa–Japan collaboration on industrial policy, technology transfer, and cross-border investment in innovation-led development.

Our Picks of the Quarter

This quarter’s featured publications highlight enduring insights and urgent priorities shaping Africa’s development landscape. From foundational lessons on capacity building to emerging strategies against illicit financial flows, and practical pathways to empower small businesses, these briefs reflect ACBF’s

commitment to knowledge-driven action. They offer policy actors, institutions, and development partners relevant tools to drive transformation, promote fiscal sovereignty, and unlock economic potential across the continent.

ACBF's 2018 Lessons Notes on Capacity Development in Africa: Insights Still Relevant Today



ACBF's 2018 Compendium of Lesson Notes on Capacity Development in Africa remains highly relevant today. It offers insights from decades of experience in policy, the public sector, regional integration, and think tank capacity building. Its lessons on leadership, tailored support, and sustainable implementation provide practical tools for advancing Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and Africa's socio-economic transformation.

Knowledge Brief for June 2025 Webinar "Combating Illicit Financial Flows: Strengthening Africa's Fiscal Sovereignty"



Illicit financial flows (IFFs) drain over US\$89 billion annually from Africa, surpassing the continent's intake of official development assistance. This Knowledge Brief, produced by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in collaboration with HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd, examines the scale, drivers, and institutional weaknesses that enable IFFs, drawing insights from a multi-stakeholder webinar.

Empowering the Small and Medium Business Ecosystem in Africa: A Holistic Approach to Overcoming Capacity Challenges



Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs) are Africa's economic engine, driving jobs and growth, but access to finance, markets, skills, and infrastructure still limits their potential. This policy brief emphasises that a comprehensive, integrated approach is needed: promoting financial inclusion, enhancing entrepreneurship education, investing in infrastructure, and easing market access. By tackling these challenges strategically, Africa can unlock the full potential of SMBs, ensuring their scalability and sustainability while leveraging them as engines of economic development and inclusive growth across the continent.

Strategic Engagements



Meeting with H.E Selma Malika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union

Meeting with the Minister of Finance, Equatorial Guinea

Meeting with Mrs. Botho Keba Bayendi, Director of Strategic Planning and Delivery, African Union Commission

Meeting with Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of AfCFTA

In the News



Think-tanks eye turnaround of Africa's public

[Ghana News Agency](#)

Think Tanks Eye Turnaround of Africa's Public Financial Management. Highlights key conversations from the Africa Think Tank Summit 2025, noting the collective resolve of African think tanks to bridge policy and implementation gaps in public financial management and drive inclusive governance across the continent.

Nigeria Joins Cote d'Ivoire, Four Other LEAPS Programme for Effective Public Leadership



[This Day Live](#)

Nigeria Joins Cote d'Ivoire, Four Others on LEAPS Programme for Effective Public Sector Leadership Covers Nigeria's inclusion in the LEAPS Program, underlining its regional importance in enhancing public sector leadership and governance effectiveness across Africa.

AU Commission Launches Platform to Strengthen Africa's Research and Policy



[Nile Post](#)

AU Commission Launches Platform to Strengthen Africa's Research and Policy Talks about how the ATTP, launched by the African Union Commission and partners, is designed to strengthen research and policy development in Africa, bridging the gap between knowledge and governance.



[APS](#)

L'UA lance un projet de 50 millions de dollars pour financer la recherche-développement French-language piece focuses on the ATTP's financial commitment to strengthening African think tanks, with a spotlight on its role in fostering research, innovation, and policy relevance.

Procurement Announcements: Visit our website for the latest [procurement opportunities](#).

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We would love to hear about the work you are heading, your accomplishments, and impact-driven results.

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